

of the death of the well-known Russian Ornithologist, Dr. N. A. Sarudny, or as it is sometimes spelt Zarudnij. This occurred in March 1919 at Tashkent in Turkestan, and was hastened by privations endured under the Bolshevik regime.

Dr. Sarudny was for many years Curator of the Museum in Tashkent, and had travelled very extensively, not only in Turkestan but also in Persia and Baluchistan. He was not only a very careful field-naturalist and collector, but had published much on the Birds of Central Asia in the 'Messenger Ornithologique' and other Russian journals. Major Bailey describes how he found him and his wife living in one room of his house, all the others having been taken from him by the Bolsheviks. In this one room was his private collection of birds, stored in cardboard boxes and filling nearly the whole space up to the ceiling. This valuable collection was "nationalized" by the Bolsheviks at the time of his death, and is now in the Museum at Tashkent.

XXVIII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

Brook on the Common Buzzard.

[The Buzzard at Home. By Arthur Brook. London: 1920. 8vo. Pp. 1-15; 12 photographic illustrations.]

This is another of the sketches of Bird-Life, published by Messrs. Witherby, corresponding to that of the Golden Eagle (Ibis, 1910, p. 207). The writer set up a tent close to a Buzzard's nest in Wales, and was able to secure pictures of the adult and young on various occasions. He gives an interesting account of what he saw during the period that the young were in the nest and of their subsequent flight from it. Incidentally he tells us that he has known of more than one nest on the ground in heather or rushes.

Gladstone on Jardine's Calendar.

[A Naturalist's Calendar, kept by Sir W. Jardine from 1 January to 31 May, 1829. (Reprinted from Trans. Dumfr. N. H. Soc., Feb. 1919.)]

A Calendar, kept for a few months of one year, can never, of course, be of any great importance; but we should like to draw attention to Mr. Gladstone's transcription of, and notes on, the manuscript of a great naturalist of the last century, as it shows the status and abundance of birds on the West Marches of the Borderland in 1829, compared with the present day.

Gurney on the Black-headed Gull.

[Breeding Stations of the Black-headed Gull in the British Isles. By Robert Gurney. (Extract from Trans. Norf. & Norw. Nat. Soc. x. 1918-19, pp. 416-447.)]

It is especially fitting that this article should be written by a resident in Norfolk, where the well-known "Gullery" at Scoulton is situated—no doubt the largest in existence in our islands; while Mr. Gurney has been most successful in gathering records and obtaining full information. Probably he has passed over a few cases where the birds have bred in small numbers for a single season; but this is, we suppose, intentional, though we think that in an area with which we are well acquainted on the Borders, he should have noted the temporary change of quarters of the Pallinsburn colony to the neighbouring Paston Loch.

Mullens, Swann, and Jourdain on Bibliography of Birds.

[A Geographical Bibliography of British Ornithology from the earliest times to the end of 1918. By W. H. Mullens, H. Kirke Swann, and Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain. Part 3. London: 1920.]

A third part of this work, which concludes the County of Middlesex and reaches as far as Surrey, is especially important to residents in the Metropolis. We congratulate the joint authors on the fullness of the information given,

which seems to leave little to be desired, and feel sure of the great utility of the result of their labours.

Swann on the Birds-of-Prey.

[A Synoptical List of the Accipitres (Diurnal Birds of Prey). By H. Kirke Swann. Part iv. (conclusion). London : 1920.]

This part comprises the *Falconinæ* and *Pandiones*, with an Index to the Genera in the work. One new subspecies (*guatemalensis*) is proposed under *Cerchneis sparveria*, and for some recondite reason *Tinnunculus* is changed to *Tinnuncula*. The word is a substantive, and can have no feminine.

Wait on Ceylon Birds.

[The distribution of birds in Ceylon and its relation to recent geological changes in the Island. By W. E. Wait. *Spolia Zeylanica*, x. pt. 36, pp. 1-32, 1914.]

[Notes on Ceylon Rails, Waders, Gulls, and Terns. Id., *ibid.* pt. 38, pp. 179-265, 1916.]

[Notes on Ceylon Water-Birds, Ceylon Pigeons, and Game-Birds. Id., *ibid.* pt. 39, pp. 287-379, 1917.]

Since the publication of the late Colonel Legge's fine volume on the Birds of Ceylon about forty years ago, but little has been added to our knowledge of the avifauna of that island. In the last few years, however, Mr. W. E. Wait, of the Ceylon Civil Service and a member of our Union, has been devoting a good deal of attention to this matter, and is now engaged in preparing a handbook on the subject which will supplement and revise on more modern lines Legge's great work ; this is out of print and was always a most difficult and expensive book to procure.

In the meantime, before issuing the complete work, Mr. Wait published in 'Spolia Zeylanica,' the organ of the Colombo Museum, two parts of his notes dealing with the water- and game-birds, and these will undoubtedly be of great assistance to all those in Ceylon who are interested in birds. Keys and descriptions of each species are given,

together with notes on the distribution and habits, special attention being given to the nests and eggs, of which last Mr. Wait has a very fine and complete collection.

In matters of nomenclature and classification Blanford and Oates's volumes on the Birds in the 'Fauna of British India' are followed, while references are given to Legge's work; but we hope that when the handbook is completed a more modern system of nomenclature will be used, as only by this means will the differentiation of the Ceylonese fauna—which is very considerable, considering the small extent and shallow nature of the sea separating Ceylon from India—in the matter of subspecies, apart from the quite distinct generic and specific forms, be made manifest. This subspecific variation was, of course, to a large extent ignored by the older writers.

The first paper listed above contains a discussion of the zoo-geographical relations of the Ceylonese avifauna, and is in the form of a criticism of Dr. Blanford's well-known paper on the "Distribution of Vertebrate Animals in India, Burma, and Ceylon," published in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society in 1901. After a review of the more characteristic forms, Mr. Wait draws attention to the fact that there are two very distinct elements in the avifauna of Ceylon. The oldest, as is shown by the far greater amount of differentiation, inhabits the central Kandyan uplands and the damp low country to the west of the mountains to the neighbourhood of Colombo; this fauna is closely related to that of the Malabar district of south-western India, where very similar conditions prevail, and it is here that nearly all the types confined to Ceylon are found.

The dry north-east and north-west coastal districts have an avifauna largely identical with that of the eastern portion of the Madras Presidency, which may be termed the Carnatic tract. Mr. Wait finds that these two regions possess several genera and species not found in the Malabar or Kandyan regions, and that there is little or no specific or subspecific differentiation in this case, showing that

migration into Ceylon is much more recent, geologically speaking, than in the case of the Malabar-Kandyan connexion. Mr. Wait discusses the geological and climatic changes which appear to have been necessary to bring about these results, and seems to have made out a good case for the ultimate firm establishment of his hypotheses.

Austral Avian Record.

[The Austral Avian Record. Vol. iii. Nos. 7, 8. Editor, Gregory M. Mathews. London: Dec. 1919, Feb. 1920.]

The second of these numbers contains only the Title Page, Table of Contents, and Index to the third volume; but the first consists of an account of the life and work of three living Australian Ornithologists—S. A. White, T. Carter, and W. D. K. Macgillivray. To the first, himself the son of the well-known Zoologist of Gould's time, we owe the greater part of our knowledge of the birds of Central Australia, as well as much information concerning those of the North; the second is equally noted for his work in the West, and has contributed several papers to 'The Ibis' from 1886 up to this year; the third is of the same clan as the noted author of the 'History of British Birds,' and is still as energetic as ever in the pursuit of science. All are responsible for the discovery of new forms, or the re-discovery of old; and, what is almost more important in Australia, have added immensely to our knowledge of the life-histories of the rarer species. Their writings are such as must be read, marked, learnt, and inwardly digested.

Canadian Naturalist.

[The Canadian Field Naturalist. Vol. xxxiii. Nos. 4-6. Ottawa: 1919-1920.]

These parts contain popular articles on Bird-study, Bird-collecting under permits, and a good paper by Mr. Fleming on the Ornithology of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, which was also published in the last number of 'The Ibis,' by agreement with the editor. Moreover, Mr. Oberholser

names a new Swallow from Western Canada, *Petrochelidon albifrons hypopolia*, and discusses the distribution of the races of the species involved.

Journal of the Natural History Society of Siam.

[The Journal of the Natural History Society of Siam. Vol. iii. Nos. 1-3, Nov. 1918-Aug. 1919.]

In the first two numbers Mr. W. J. F. Williamson writes on important bird-records from Siam, and on the breeding of certain Terns (*Sterna bergii*, *S. melanauchen*, and *S. anæsthesia*). The bird-records are nearly all of forms which are new to the country or have been lost sight of, but the details of distribution must be left to our readers to study.

A more important article is that by Messrs. Robinson and Kloss on a collection made by them at Puket Island off peninsular Siam, to be compared with Count Gyldenstolpe's "List," which we are now publishing. In spite of the efforts of former collectors the authors are able to separate three new races (*Cyanops mystacophanes aurantiifrons*, *Mesobucco duvauceli stuarti*, and *Chloropsis cyanopogon septentrionalis*), and add two species of *Pericrocotus* to the list of birds occurring in the Peninsula. They were struck by the numbers of *Baza lophotes* seen, and obtained one example of the rare *Monticola gularis*.

In the third number Mr. Stuart-Baker gives a long account of a very noteworthy collection of birds formed by Mr. E. G. Herbert in Siam, and presented to the British Museum; here we should like to call attention to the large number of Siamese forms which are now relegated from specific to subspecific value, besides the new races also in considerable numbers. Everyone interested in the fauna of the Oriental Region should study this paper, which is to a certain extent a summary of Siamese Ornithology, though in the form of an annotated list, and no one should fail to read the comparatively new journal in which it is contained.

The Emu.

[The Emu. Official organ of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union. Vol. xix. pts. 1-3. Melbourne: July 1919-Jan. 1920.]

The first part contains articles on the Upper Clarence Region, N. S. W., by Mr. Ramsay; the Mackay district by Messrs. Harvey; the Dolomite country by Mr. Kersey; and the Upper Murray River by Colonel Bryant; while these distributional papers are intermingled with others on separate species. Here Mr. A. T. Campbell writes on some Wren-Warblers, with a coloured plate of the forms from Dirk Hartog and Barrow Islands and the mainland; Mr. Gilbert on the Black-throated Honey-eater; Mr. McGilp on the nest and eggs of the Desert Bush-Chat; Mr. Alexander and Mr. Chisholm respectively on four Western Australian species and on those introduced into Queensland. A note on a Dipterous Bird-Parasite is of considerable interest; while we wish to call special attention to the article entitled "An Ornithologist with the A.I.F. in Egypt and Palestine," by Mr. Berney, who served there during the war.

In the second part Mr. Hall compares the Eastern Palæartic and Australian Avifauna, as observed in his journey to the Lena Delta (Ibis, 1904, p. 415); Mr. Lord gives an account of a trip to the Tasmanian National Park; and Mr. Sutherland writes on birds observed at a New Zealand Lighthouse. Captain White has a coloured plate and discussion on the Allied Buff-rumped Tit-Warbler; Mr. Alexander criticizes Mr. Campbell's Wren-Warbler paper; and various authors write on the food or habits of certain Parrots.

The third part contains an account of the R. A. O. U. Annual Meeting, with articles on the excursions to the Bunya Range and Stradbroke Island. We have also notes on Sea Birds and on northern species by Major Macgillivray and Mr. W. H. D. Le Souef respectively; while under the species separately treated come the Striped-breasted Shrike Thrush (with a coloured plate), and Small-billed Tit-

